

Testimony in support of the Nursing Home Safe Staffing and Quality Care Act

(H 5012 Representative Slater)

House Finance Committee March 4, 2021

I have been a CNA since 1988. When I started, I was making less than \$10.00 an hour. In 2006, I went to work at Parkview nursing home, making \$11.00 an hour. So in 18 years, I only increased my pay \$1.00 an hour.

I work double shifts every other weekend, and even then, I have to decide what bills to pay and what bills not to pay. I have no energy when I wake up, and my body aches from working this much at 59 years old.

On top of that, the staffing is horrible almost every day. It's very hard to get all the care done for the residents, and sometimes residents complain about not getting enough care. It's not fair to them. They are at the facility because they need a lot of care, and they deserve to have more than the bare minimum.

I believe the staffing shortage is because of the low wages. The younger generation doesn't want to do this work anymore, seeing as the pay is horrible. We need higher wages so more people will work in our nursing homes and our residents get all the care they need.

Sincerely,

Maria Dono, CNA, Bannister Center